1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Sikkim	-	-	0.06	0.16
23.	Tamil Nadu	19.05	133.19	5.02	7.58
24.	Tripura	1.50	16.98	2.31	10.12
25.	Uttar Pradesh	5.35	30.59	1.95	299.93
26.	West Bengal	5.04	95.12	1.10	63.17
Union Territories					
1.	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-
2.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	0.40
3.	Dadra And Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-
4.	Daman And Diu	-	-	-	-
5.	Lakshadweep	-	-	10.97	43.73
6.	Pondicherry	-	0.87	-	0.55

[English]

Opening of Branch Offices of EPC in Andhra Pradesh

3194. SHRI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to the Union Government to open branch offices of various Export Promotion Council at Hyderabad in view of the growing exports;

(b) whether a high level meeting was held to discuss this issue with the Union Government and the representatives of Commerce and Industry ministries;

(c) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcomes thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard and the time by which these offices are likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A high level meeting was held on 4.1.97 at Hyderabad wherein requests were received for opening up of branch offices of various Export Promotion Councils. Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Costmetic Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCI) is looking into the possibility of opening of a regional office at Hyderabad.

World Bank Loan

3195. DR. G.R. SARODE: Will the Minister for the State in the Ministry of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plans to utilise the World Bank loan already taken/ proposed to be taken, giving the details of infrastructure thus created; and

(b) the steps being taken to generate adequate funds to repay the interest accurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) World Bank assistance has been utilised mainly in the areas of human resource development, agriculture and allied activities, financial sector development etc. besides infrastructure. As far as creation of infrastructure is concerned, World Bank assistance has been utilised in construction of roads, ports etc., provision of irrigation and drinking water facilities, generation and distribution of power and electricity etc.

(b) Adequate funds are provided in the annual budget for the repayment of principal and payment of interest every year.

[Translation]

Chari Committee Report

3196. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chari Committee has recommended abolition of holding companies in the coal sector;

(b) whether the Chari Committee has also recommended the independent working for coal subsidiary units which has also been endorsed by the Cabinet; and

(c) if so, the reason for not implementing the recommendation of the Chari Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The Committee on Integrated Coal Policy has emphasised the need

to look into the organisational structure of Coal India Limited (CIL) and has suggested that it may be necessary to consider making a separate company of each of the subsidiaries of CIL and they should be enabled to function independently after the price de-regulation and other reforms are undertaken. The matter will therefore be submitted for consideration of the Cabinet later.

(c) Does not arise in view of answer to parts (a) and (b) above.

[English]

Policy of Liberalisation

3197. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to go ahead with the policy of liberalisation;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any important decisions in regard to the liberalisation policy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Since June 1, 1996 several measures have been taken by the Government in the areas of foreign investment and infrastructure development. The Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC) has been set up, the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has been steamlined and made more transparent and the first ever guidelines for diret foreign investment have been announced in the areas which are not covered under the automatic route. The list of industries eligible for automatic approval of foreign equity upto 51 per cent has been expanded and a new list for automatic approval of foreign equity upto 74 per cent has been announced. Foreign Institutional Investors have been allowed to invest in unlisted companies and in corporate and Government securities, and guidelines for External Commercial Borrowings have been liberalised.

Other reforms include setting up of Disinvestment Commission, independent Tariff Commission, enhancing investment ceilings for small scale industries, delicensing of consumer electronics, changes in sugar policy, deregulation of prices and distribution of certain categories of coal and amendment of Coal Mines Act.

Since December, 1996 the Government has allowed automatic approval for foreign equity participation upto 74 per cent in key infrastructure industries such as electricity generation and transmission, non-conventional energy generation and distribution and construction activities in the area of roads, bridges, railbeds, ports and harbours. Sector specific reforms incorporating tax holidays and concessional import duty have been introduced for telecom and power sector. The Government has recently announced guidelines for private investment in highway development through Build Operate-Transfer (BOT) route.

Several measures have also been announced in the Central Budget for 1997-98.

Those include:

* 14 items dereserved from the existing list of 836 items reserved for exclusive manufacture of small scale sector. The dereserved items include rice milling, dal milling, poultry feed, vinegar, synthetic syrups, biscuits, ice cream, etc.
* Profit making PSUs can incur double their existing limit of capital expenditure without the prior approval of the Government.
* A second batch of PSUs has been referred to the Disinvestment Commission, subsequent to the submission of its first report.
* Announcement of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) for the oil and Gas sector.
* Oil exploration and Industrial Parks designated as infrastructure.
* Refineries allowed to import capital goods during Ninth Plan at a concessional duty on par with fertiliser sector.
* Enhancing budget support for National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to Rs. 500 crore from Rs. 200 crore.
* Limit of aggregate investment in a company by FIIs/NRIs/NRI-OCBs raised to 30 per cent from 24 per cent.
* Enhancement of equity investment limit for venture capital funds in any single company to 20 per cent from 5 per cent.
* Government promoted societies recognised by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and notified under the Income Tax Act, allowed to invest in equity of private sector companies.
* LIC to promote joint ventures in pension business.
* Selected Indian players (with majority of India ownership) allowed entry in health insurance business alongwith permission of joint ventures by GIC.
* System of ad-hoc treasury Bills to finance budget deficit to be discontinued and scheme of ways and Means Advance (WMA) being introduced.
* Concept of "Budget Deficit" being discontinued.
* Introduction of a capital indexed bond, with repayment of principal amounts being indexed to inflation.
* Acceptance of Tenth Finance Commission recommendation of single divisible pool of tax between Centre and States at the proportion of 29 per cent.